

# The Great Game of Politics

Review of President's Appointments Shows Administration Draws Talent

Mention has been made in this space several times of a favored form of disparaging the Truman administration adopted by the more or less intellectual insiders of the former regime who now find themselves uncomfortably distant from the White House personally and politically.

Evidence of their discontent is found in the persistent belittlement of Mr. Truman, personally, and the wide circulation given to the theory that he is unable to get good men to accept important posts under him or to keep those good men whom he found in high positions when he became President.

They harp on Messrs. Allen, Hanneagan and Vaughn, but ignore completely Messrs. Forrestal, Patterson, Symington, Harman, Gardner (whose sudden death was generally deplored), Wiggins, Brown, Ross and Clifford.

Secretary of the Navy Forrestal and Secretary of War Patterson were inherited by Mr. Truman, but the others were brought in by him and they by no means sustain the contention that the personnel of the Government service has deteriorated and we are being ruled by a lot of Missouri mediocrities.

**Appointment of Marshall Cited.** To make this notion even reasonably plausible it is necessary also to ignore the appointment of Gen. Marshall as Secretary of State and his prompt acceptance thereof. Certainly all these are "good men" and it might also be mentioned that all of them are making "financial sacrifices" to serve in this administration.

And now President Truman has made it more difficult for these critics who insist on the "low-level" idea by appointing very good men as solicitor general of the United States—Philip B. Perlman of Maryland. Mr. Perlman is an able and successful lawyer who is making a considerable "financial sacrifice" to take this position.

He is a man of intelligence, character and experience. He is not a politician, though he has been active in Democratic politics. He has filled a number of appointive public offices, including that of Secretary of State of Maryland under the late Gov. Ritchie, whose intimate friend he was but has never sought an elective office for himself.

He is interested in art and early American architecture as well as the law, and rides horses without falling off. He used to play tennis, though not very well. He is a bachelor with no known bad habits. The post to which he has been named, next to the Attorney Generalship and the Supreme Court, is the highest a lawyer can hold in this country. It has been filled by a long line of distinguished lawyers, some of whom have been promoted to the Supreme Court.

**Perlman is Hard Worker.** It is the most important Federal post to which any Marylander has been appointed in 40 years—since the late Charles J. Bonaparte was made Secretary of the Navy by Theodore Roosevelt. In addition to his other equipment, probably the best reason for believing Mr. Perlman will make a good solicitor general is that an outstanding characteristic of his nature is industry. He really works.

At any rate, his selection makes the claim that it is impossible to get good men to enter this administration seem even sillier than before. The truth is that, considering the natural reaction after the war, Mr. Truman has done exceedingly well in the matter of appointments. He has no more of which to be ashamed than his predecessor, and just as many of which to be proud.

Take it all the way through, and the personnel in this administration is of a high caliber.

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# Meets C. of C. Man In Florida Freeze

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